

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) A cyclone separating apparatus for use in a vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a first cyclone for separating dust from dust-laden air;

a plurality of second cyclones for separating minute particles of dust from dust-laden air by a second separation of dust from dust-laden air with a centrifugal force; and

an inlet-outlet cover disposed on an upper part of the first cyclone and the second cyclones, for a fluid-communication between the first cyclone and the second cyclones, the inlet-outlet cover through which purified air cleaned by the second cyclone, is discharged,

wherein:

the inlet-outlet cover comprises an air channel connected such that the whole of air discharged from the first cyclone flows into at least one of the plurality of second cyclones,

wherein the inlet-outlet cover comprises a plurality of outlet channels penetrating into the inlet-outlet cover so air can be discharged from at least one of the plurality of second cyclones,

the first cyclone includes at least a first outlet,

at least one of the plurality of second cyclones includes at least a second outlet, and

at least a portion of the plurality of outlet channels is inserted into the second outlet so that cleaned air is discharged through the plurality of outlet channels,

wherein one end of the outlet channel is connected to the second outlet formed on one side of the at least one second cyclone, and the other end is open in an upward direction of the inlet-outlet cover, and

the other end of the outlet channel is cut into a slope inclining toward a central direction of the inlet-outlet cover.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the first cyclone comprises:

a first chamber in which dust-laden air is separated by a centrifugal force;
a first inlet formed in the first chamber, through which dust-laden air flows, and
the first outlet, which is formed in the first chamber from which air is discharged.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein each of the second cyclones comprises:

a second chamber for separating dust a second time using a centrifugal force from air which was previously separated at the first cyclone;
a second inlet formed in the second chamber, through which air discharged from the first cyclone flows; and
the second outlet, which is formed in the second chamber, through which dust-separated air is discharged.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first chamber is formed substantially in a cylindrical shape and the second chamber is formed with a part of one end substantially in a frustum-conical shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[4]] 5, wherein the cyclone separating apparatus further comprises a cyclone cover installed on an upper part of the inlet-outlet cover.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the cyclone cover is substantially in a conical shape with open upper and lower spaces.

Claims 11 & 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a vacuum cleaner main body for generating a suction force to draw-in dust-laden air;
a bottom brush for drawing-in dust from a bottom, which is a surface to be cleaned, using the suction force, wherein the bottom brush is in fluid-communication with the vacuum cleaner main body; and

a cyclone separating apparatus installed in the vacuum cleaner main body,

wherein the cyclone separating apparatus comprises,

a first cyclone for separating dust-laden air;

a plurality of second cyclones for separating fine dust particles by a second separation of air which was previously separated at the first cyclone using centrifugal force; and

an inlet-outlet cover installed on an upper part of the first cyclone and the plurality of second cyclones, for fluid-communication between the first cyclone and the plurality of second cyclones through which dust-removed air from the plurality of second cyclones is discharged.

14. (Original) The cleaner according to claim 13, wherein the inlet-outlet cover comprises:

an air-channel connected to allow air discharged from the first cyclone flows into the second cyclone; and

a plurality of outlet channels penetrating through the inlet-outlet cover allowing air to discharge from the second cyclone.